

William T. "Ron" Roberts, Jr.
Chair

Roland M. Toups.
Vice Chair

Frances T. Henry
Secretary

E. Joseph Savoie
Commissioner of
Higher Education



BOARD OF REGENTS

P.O. Box 3677
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-3677
Phone (225) 342-4253
FAX (225) 342-9318

William "Billy" Blake
Scott O. Brame
Richard E. D'Aquin
Reggie Dupré
Robert W. Levy
William "Bill" Oliver
Virgil Robinson, Jr.
Norbert A. Simmons
William Clifford Smith
Pat A. Strong
Artis Terrell, Jr.
Steven Sumbler
Student Member

February 6, 2003

Contact: Kevin Hardy

Regents Representatives Meet With Displaced Proprietary School Students

BATON ROUGE - The Louisiana Board of Regents has scheduled a series of meetings with former students of King's Career College and the Culinary Institute of Louisiana/ to address their educational needs in the wake of the recent closure of both schools. The meetings are aimed at helping the students enroll in compatible programs at other institutions and/or receive compensation for tuition money they may have lost as a result of the school closures.

The Louisiana Board of Regents voted unanimously last month to revoke the licenses of the two Baton Rouge-based proprietary schools. Having recently lost accreditation, both schools had discontinued classes, which precipitated the action by the Board. An estimated 100 students were affected by the closures.

Since last month's action the Board has secured the records of both schools' currently-enrolled students and has moved to secure the records of previously-enrolled students as well. In addition, the Board is working with the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA) and the Louisiana Attorney General's Office to explore students' options and protect their rights.

"The Board of Regents has an obligation to protect the interests of Louisiana's students," said Louisiana Commissioner of Higher Education E. Joseph Savoie. "Part of that obligation is strong action to weed out institutions not living up to their end of the educational bargain. An equally-important part is seeing to it that Louisiana students unfortunate enough to have enrolled in such institutions are given every opportunity to recover from their circumstances."

The Board of Regents hosted a meeting with the King's Career College LPN students on January 31, and will host meetings on Monday, February 10 (for the remaining King's Career College students), and on Tuesday, February 11 (for students of the Culinary Institute of Louisiana), to address student concerns and discuss available options. The displaced students may be able to seek refunds or pursue their curricula at other institutions with funds from two potential sources: either a surety bond that each proprietary school is required by the Board of Regents to purchase upon licensing, or the Student Protection Fund. The Student Protection Fund is a state-administered fund to which all proprietary schools must contribute, intended to provide relief for students in circumstances such as these.

Both remaining informational meetings will be held at 1:00 p.m. on their respective dates in the Iowa Room (Room 1-153) of the Claiborne Building, 1201 North Street, in Baton Rouge. Students from both schools are invited to attend the meetings.

